

ing them. According to the Intimation I gave you in my Letter of the 15th Inst a Bill for the better Regulation of the Clergy was not only framed in the Lower House but was also assented to by the Upper on Condition it should not have any Effect till next March before which time they apprehended His Ldp might be able to consider it or take Advice thereon & if he disapproved thereof to declare it null & void, nevertheless as it was a Bill of quite a new nature & I knew not what may be His Ldp's Sentiments with regard to regulating the Clergy by any Law whatever or establishing any Visitatorial Authority over them in the Province I took the liberty to lay the Bill aside when it was presented to me in the usual manner for my Fiat, which has been sometimes done by former Governors with respect to any Bill about the propriety of which they were in doubt, but as it will certainly be revived at the next Session I hope it will be thoroughly considered before that time & that His Ldp's pleasure will be fully made known to Me on the Subject. The Truth is that there are among the Clergy of this Province some very immoral Men in particular a M^r McCullum in Dorchester County who by reason of his Sottishness has for many years been absolutely unable to officiate in the Church or to discharge any part of his Duty: Another whose Name is Lendrum is said to be not only an habitual Drunkard but also to live in Adultery, another whose name is Brown was lately accused of murdering one of his Slaves & actually fled thereupon to Virginia where he remained several Months till his Son who could be the only positive Witness against him could be ship't away thence to Scotland so that the Coroners Inquest tho Circumstances were very strong against him wanted Proof sufficient to charge him with Murder, as this added to his Behaviour on many other occasions made his Parishioners consider him as a very bad Man none of them will even yet attend Divine Service at his Church, about which indeed he is said to be extremely indifferent. These were all Rectors of the Parishes they now hold before my Arrival in the Province & I hope there are no others so scandalous but there are I am afraid several that do not make a Conscience of discharging their Duty & by that means the Presbyterians & other Dissenting Congregations increase in many parts of the Province notwithstanding they are subjected to a double Burthen viz the Payment of their own Ministers as well as of the Thirty p^r Poll for the Support of the Established Clergy. That something is necessary to be done cannot be denied but what & after what manner I really cannot tell so that both the Laity & Clergy may be satisfied & His Ldps Charter Rights be effectually preserved. It seems to have been the opinion of the Framers of this Bill that while His

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